



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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Situation Report

Hurricane Rita Support

11am, September 23, 2005

Hurricane Rita

On Friday, Governor Blunt declared a State of Emergency in Missouri enabling state resources to be used to assist with emergency response and mass care activities that may result from Hurricane Rita. The storm is expected to hit the gulf coast in the next 24 hours.

SEMA is now staffing the State Emergency Operations Center on a 24-hour-a-day basis. This staffing pattern will continue through the weekend as the agency monitors weather service reports, and responds to requests received through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

Dept of Social Services conducted a conference call on Thursday with other state agencies and volunteer organizations who would be responsible for reception and care of persons temporarily displaced by the hurricane. All agencies are assessing and preparing for reception activities should it become necessary.

Dept of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) is coordinating with the Federal Health Resource Services Administration to send physicians and nurses to the area potentially impacted by the storm. DHSS is also preparing to stand up additional staff in its Disaster Situation Room, should it become necessary.

The Missouri Donations Hotline (800-841-8891) continues to take calls from anyone wishing to volunteer or donate to victims of both Hurricane Rita and Hurricane Katrina. AmeriCorps volunteers are staffing the hotline from 8am-7pm, seven days a week.

At 10am, the National Hurricane Center reported the following information on the storm:

- Rita was located in the Gulf of Mexico about 220 miles southeast of Galveston, TX and 210 miles southeast of Port Arthur, TX.
- Sustained winds are estimated at 135mph, making the storm a borderline category three or category-four hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale.

- Rita continues to move to the northwest at 10mph. The projected path of the storm is northwest through the Gulf of Mexico, with landfall expected near the Texas-Louisiana border Saturday morning.
- The National Weather Service has issued a hurricane warning for the eastern half of the Texas coast, and the western half of the Louisiana coast. A hurricane warning means hurricane force winds (greater than 74mph) are expected over the next 24 hours.
- The National Weather Service has issued a tropical storm warning for most of the remainder of the gulf coast in Louisiana, and a small portion of the gulf coast in Texas. This tropical storm warning includes the City of New Orleans. A tropical storm warning means tropical storm force winds (greater than 39mph) are expected over the next 24 hours.

EMAC Support

A number of EMAC requests for the two hurricanes are being worked by SEMA. Missouri EMAC support for the two storms includes the following:

- SEMA will send an EMAC Team member to Baton Rouge, Louisiana to assist in recovery for Hurricane Katrina. That person is scheduled to depart later today.
- SEMA will send four personnel in OCT to provide assistance to the State of Mississippi with floodplain management activities.
- Members from several fire departments in Region C (St Louis area) continue their work in Gulfport, MS with 26 personnel and 12 water tankers. They are assisting the local fire department with firefighting activities.
- The Missouri National Guard is reviewing requests received from Texas in advance of Hurricane Rita for military aircraft and fuel tankers.

Severe Storms

Hail was reported early Friday morning in Boonville. Otherwise, there have been no reports of severe weather over the past 24 hours to National Weather Service offices serving Missouri. The Weather Service indicates some isolated severe storms could return later today, but widespread activity is not anticipated.

Points of Contact:

For the remainder of the weekend, SEMA can be contacted on a 24-hour basis at 573-526-9100.

DHSS Situation Room can be reached on a 24-hour basis at 800-392-0272.